

# AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

## LOUISIANA'S TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS

### I-49 SOUTH (US 90 INTERCHANGE AT LA 85)



*The \$28 million upgrade of the existing at-grade intersection at US 90 and LA 85 to a grade-separated interchange will improve traffic flow and highway safety.*

#### Notable Project Facts

- Construction will consist of building two new parallel overpasses on US 90 over LA 85
- DOTD will process this project utilizing an accelerated "Design-Build" methodology which will combine the design and construction of the project into a single, seamless process. Using this process, as opposed to the traditional "Design-Bid-Build" method, will shorten the project completion time-frame.
- By grade-separating the crossing, the interchange will improve safety and bring the concept of a fully controlled access highway (I-49 South) closer to fruition.

#### Why do we need this?

**The extension of I-49 south from Lafayette to New Orleans is one of the State's highest highway priorities.** Based on studies on the I-10/12 corridor, significant traffic congestion is expected by 2030 along its entire length and freight utilization due to enhanced trade with Latin America will continue to exacerbate the problem. A reliable, parallel facility with access to the New Orleans region and continuing beyond to points along the gulf and east coasts is sorely needed to address these challenges. The I-49 corridor in the coastal zone is also important for the support of the oil and gas industry as well as for hurricane evacuation. Providing an Interstate-class facility would continue to enhance the economic growth of "America's Wetland".

#### A solid investment...

**To date, DOTD has spent \$488 million in the I-49 South corridor to bring the existing US 90 to Interstate standards.**

- Over 75 miles of US 90 is now constructed to Interstate standards
- 6 at-grade intersections have been converted to grade-separated interchanges with another presently under construction
- Environmental approvals have been procured for the entire length of I-49 South

The implementation of this interchange will continue the progress made to provide a continuous Interstate from New Orleans to Shreveport to Kansas City, Missouri (via I-49) to Canada (via I-29).

#### Project Selection for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

La DOTD, in accordance with the parameters set forth by President Barack Obama's economic stimulus, has identified projects which are "shovel ready" and can be let to construction in a very short time-frame. 50% of the ARRA funding must be obligated within 120 days of apportionment of the funds. Failure to obligate this funding within the prescribed time will result in reallocation of the balance of funds to other States.

